Numb. 8

The TATLER.

By *Iſaac Bickerſtaff* Eſq;

Quicquid agunt Homines noſtri Farrago Libelli.

From *Thurſday April* 28. to *Saturday April* 30. 1709.

Will's Coffee-houſe; April 28.

THis Evening we were entertain'd with *The Old Batchelor*, a Comedy of deſerved Reputation. In the Character which gives Name to the Play, there is excellently repreſented the Reluctance of a batter'd Debauchee to come into the Trammels of Order and Decency: He neither languiſhes nor burns, but frets for Love. The Gentlemen of more regular Behaviour are drawn with much Spirit and Wit, and the *Drama* introduc'd by the Dialogue of the firſt Scene with uncommon, yet natural Converſation. The Part of *Fondlewife* is a lively Image of the unſeaſonable Fondneſs of Age and Impotence. But inſtead of ſuch agreeable Works as theſe, the Town has this half Age been tormented with Inſects call'd *Eaſie Writers*, whoſe Abilities Mr. *Wycherly* one Day deſcrib'd excellently well in one Word: *That*, ſaid he, *among theſe Fellows is call'd* Eaſy Writing, *which any one may eaſily write.* Such Janty Scribblers are ſo juſtly laugh'd at for their Sonnets on *Phillis* and *Chloris*, and Fantaſtical Deſcriptions in 'em, that an ingenious Kinſman of mine, of the Family of the *Staffs*, Mr. *Humphrey Wagſtaff* by Name, has, to avoid their Strain, run into a Way perfectly new, and deſcrib'd Things exactly as they happen: He never forms Fields, or Nymphs, or Groves, where they are not, but makes the Incidents juſt as they really appear. For an Example of it; I ſtole out of his Manuſcript the following Lines: They are a Deſcription of the Morning, but of the Morning in Town; nay, of the Morning at this End of the Town, where my Kinſman at preſent lodges.

Now hardly here and there an Hackney-Coach
Appearing, ſhow'd the Ruddy Morn's Approach.
Now Betty *from her Maſter's Bed had flown,*
And ſoftly ſtole to diſcompoſe her own.
The Slipſhod 'Prentice from his Maſter's Dore,
Had par'd the Street, and ſprinkled round the Floor.
Now Moll *had whirl'd her Mop with dext'rous Airs,*
Prepar'd to ſcrub the Entry and the Stairs.
The Youth with broomy Stumps began to trace
The Kennel Edge, where Wheels had worn the Place.
The Smallcoal-Man was heard with Cadence deep,
Till drown'd in ſhriller Notes of Chimney-ſweep.
Duns at his Lordſhip's Gate began to meet;
And Brickduſt Moll *had ſcream'd through half a Street.*
The Turn-key now his Flock returning ſees,
Duly let out a' Nights to ſteal for Fees.
The watchful Bailiffs take their ſilent Stands;
And School-boys lag with Satchels in their Hands.

All that I apprehend is, that Dear *Numps* will be angry I have publiſh'd theſe Lines; not that he has any Reaſon to be aſham'd of 'em, but for Fear of thoſe Rogues, the Bane to all excellent Performances, the *Imitators*. Therefore, before-hand, I barr all Deſcriptions of the Evening; as, a Medley of Verſes ſignifying, Grey Peas are now cry'd warm; That Wenches now begin to amble round the Paſſages of the Play-houſe: Or of Noon; as, That fine Ladies and great Beaux are juſt yawning out of their Beds and Windows in *Pall-Mall*, and ſo forth. I forewarn alſo all Perſons from encouraging any Draughts after my Couſin; and foretel any Man who ſhall go about to imitate him, that he will be very inſipid. The Family Stock is embark'd in this Deſign, and we will not admit of Counterfeits: Dr. *Anderſon* and his Heirs enjoy his Pills, Sir *William Read* has the Cure of Eyes, and Mr. *Reſelli* can only cure the Gout. We pretend to none of theſe Things; but to examine who and who are together, to tell any miſtaken Man he is not what he believes he is, to diſtinguiſh Merit, and expoſe falſe Pretences to it, is a Liberty our Family has by Law in 'em, from an Inter-marriage with a Daughter of Mr. *Scoggin* the famous Droll of laſt Century. This Right I deſign to make Uſe of; but will not encroach upon the above-mention'd Adepts, or any other. At the ſame Time I ſhall take all the Privileges I may, as an *Engliſhman*, and will lay hold of the late Act of Naturalization to introduce what I ſhall think fit from *France*. Therefore an Author of that Nation, call'd *Le Bruyere*, I ſhall make bold with on ſuch Occaſions. The Uſe of that Law may, I hope, be extended to people the polite World with new Characters, as well as the Kingdom it ſelf with new Subjects. The laſt Perſon I read of in that Writer was Lord *Timon*. *Timon*, ſays my Author, is the moſt generous of all Men; but is ſo little judicious or careful in conferring Benefits, that he is munificent without laying Obligations. All thoſe who receive from him, look upon themſelves rather as Partners in a Spoil, than Partakers of a Bounty. The other Day, coming into *Paris*, I met *Timon* going out on Horſeback, attended only by one Servant. It ſtruck me with a ſudden Damp to ſee a Man of ſo excellent a Diſpoſition, and that underſtood making a Figure ſo very well, ſo much ſhorten'd in his Retinue. But paſſing by his Houſe, I ſaw his great Coach break to Pieces before his Door, and, by a ſtrange Inchantment, immediately turn'd into many different Vehicles. The firſt was a very pretty Chariot, into which ſtep'd his Lordſhip's Secretary. The ſecond was hung a little heavier; into that ſtrutted the fat Steward. In an Inſtant follow'd a Chaiſe, which was enter'd by the Butler. The reſt of the Body and Wheels were forthwith chang'd into Go-carts, and ran away with by the Nurſes and Brats of the reſt of the Family. What makes theſe Misfortunes in the Affairs of *Timon* the more aſtoniſhing, is, That he has a better Underſtanding than thoſe who cheat him; ſo that a Man knows

knows not which more to wonder at, the Indifference of the Maſter, or the Impudence of the Servant.

White's Chocolate-houſe, April 29.

It is Matter of much Speculation among the Beaux and Oglers, what it is that can have made ſo ſudden a Change, as has been of late obſerv'd, in the whole Behaviour of *Paſtorella*, who never ſat ſtill a Moment till ſhe was Eighteen, which ſhe has now exceeded by Two Months. Her Aunt, who has the Care of her, has not been always ſo rigid as ſhe is at this preſent Date; but has ſo good a Senſe of the Frailty of Woman, and Falſhood of Man, that ſhe reſolv'd on all Manner of Methods to keep *Paſtorella*, if poſſible, in Safety, againſt her ſelf, and all her Admirers. At the ſame Time the good Lady knew by long Experience, that a gay Inclination, curb'd too raſhly, would but run to the greater Exceſſes for that Reſtraint: Therefore reſolv'd to watch her, and take ſome Opportunity of ingaging her inſenſibly in her own Intereſts, without the Anguiſh of an Admonition. You are to know then, That Miſs, with all her Flirting and Ogling, had alſo naturally a ſtrong Curioſity in her, and was the greateſt *Eve's*-Dropper breathing. *Pariſatis* (for ſo her prudent Aunt is call'd) obſerv'd this Humour, and retires one Day to her Cloſet, into which ſhe knew *Paſtorella* would peep, and liſten to know how ſhe was employ'd. It happen'd accordingly, and the young Lady ſaw her good Governante on her Knees, and after a mental Behaviour, break into theſe Words: *As for the dear Child committed to my Care, let her Sobriety of Carriage, and Severity of Behaviour, be ſuch, as may make that Noble Lord, who is taken with her Beauty, turn his Deſigns to ſuch as are honourable.* Here *Pariſatis* heard her Neece neſtle cloſer to the Key-Hole: She then goes on; *Make her the joyful Mother of a numerous and wealthy Offspring, and let her Carriage be ſuch, as may make this Noble Youth expect the Bleſſings of an happy Marriage, from the Singularity of her Life, in this looſe and cenſorious Age.* Miſs had heard enough, ſneaks off for Fear of Diſcovery, and immediately, at her Glaſs, alters the Sitting of her Head; then pulls up her Tucker, and forms her ſelf into the exact Manner of *Lindamira*: In a Word, becomes a ſincere Convert to every Thing that's commendable in a fine young Lady; and Two or Three ſuch Matches as her Aunt feign'd in her Devotions, are at this Day in her Choice. This is the Hiſtory and Original Cauſe of *Paſtorella's* Converſion from Coquettry. The Prudence in the Management of this Young Lady's Temper, and good Judgment of it, is hardly to be exceeded. I ſcarce remember a greater Inſtance of Forbearance of the uſual peeviſh Way with which the Aged treat the Young, except that of our famous *Noy*, whoſe good Nature went ſo far, as to make him put off his Admonitions to his Son ev'n till after his Death; and did not give him his Thoughts of him, till he came to read that memorable Paſſage in his Will: *All the reſt of my Eſtate*, ſays he, *I leave to my Son* Edward *(who is Executor to this my Will) to be ſquandred as he ſhall think fit: I leave it him for that Purpoſe, and hope no better from him.* A generous Diſdain and Reflection, upon how little he deſerv'd from ſo excellent a Father, reform'd the young Man, and made *Edward*, from an Errant Rake, become a fine Gentleman.

St. James's Coffee-houſe, April 29.

Letters from *Portugal* of the 18th Inſtant, dated from *Eſtremos*, ſay, That on the 6th Inſtant the Earl of *Galway* arriv'd at that Place, and had the Satisfaction to ſee the Quarters well furniſh'd with all Manner of Proviſions, and a Quantity of Bread ſufficient for ſubſiſting the Troops for 60 Days, beſides Biſket for 25 Days. The Enemy give out, That they ſhall bring into the Field 14 Regiments of Horſe, and 24 Battalions. The Troops in the Service of *Portugal* will make up 14000 Foot and 4000 Horſe. On the Day theſe Letters were diſpatch'd, the Earl of *Galway* receiv'd Advice, That the Marquis *de Bay* was preparing for ſome Enterpriſe, by gathering his Troops together on the Frontiers. Whereupon his Excellency reſolv'd to go that ſame Night to *Villa-Viçoſa*, to aſſemble the Troops in that Neighbourhood, in order to diſappoint his Deſigns.

Yeſterday in the Evening Captain *Foxon*, Aid de Camp to Major-General *Cadogan*, arriv'd here Expreſs to the Duke of *Marlborough*. And this Day a Mail is come in, with Letters dated from *Bruſſels* of the 6th of *May*, *N. S.* which adviſe, That the Enemy had drawn together a Body, conſiſting of 20000 Men, with a Deſign, as was ſuppos'd, to intercept the great Convoy on the March towards *Liſle*; but that the Convoy was ſafely arriv'd at *Menin* and *Courtray*, in its Way to that Place; and that the *French* had retir'd without making any Attempt.

We hear from the *Hague*, That a Perſon of the Firſt Quality is arriv'd in the *Low-Countries* from *France*, in order to be a Plenipotentiary in an enſuing Treaty of Peace.

Letters from *France* acknowledge, That Monſieur *Bernard* has made no higher Offers of Satisfaction to his Creditors than of 35 *l. per Cent.*

Theſe Advices add, That the Mareſchal *Boufflers*, Monſieur *Torſi*, (who diſtinguiſh'd himſelf formerly, by adviſing the Court of *France* to adhere to the Treaty of Partition) and Monſieur *d'Harcourt*, (who negotiated with Cardinal *Portocarrero* for the Succeſſion of the Crown of *Spain* in the Houſe of *Bourbon*) are all Three join'd in a Commiſſion for a Treaty of Peace. The Mareſchal is come to *Ghent*: The other Two are arriv'd at the *Hague*.

It is confidently reported here, That the Right Honourable the Lord *Townſhend* is to go with his Grace the Duke of *Marlborough* into *Holland*.

Mr. Bickerſtaff *has receiv'd the Epiſtles of Mrs.* Rebecca Wagſtaff, Timothy Pikeſtaff, *and* Wagſtaff; *which he will acknowledge further as Occaſion ſhall ſerve.*

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